

Gov. Frank Murkowski  
Alaska  
Gov. Janet Napolitano  
Arizona  
Gov. M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut  
Gov. Ruth Ann Minner  
Delaware  
Gov. Rod Blagojevich  
Illinois  
Gov. Mitch Daniels  
Indiana  
Gov. Thomas Vilsack  
Iowa  
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius  
Kansas  
Gov. Kathleen Blanco  
Louisiana  
Gov. John Baldacci  
Maine  
Gov. Robert Ehrlich  
Maryland  
Gov. Mitt Romney  
Massachusetts  
Gov. Jennifer Granholm  
Michigan  
Gov. Tim Pawlenty  
Minnesota  
Gov. Brian Schweitzer  
Montana  
Gov. Dave Heineman  
Nebraska  
Gov. John Lynch  
New Hampshire  
Gov. Jon Corzine  
New Jersey  
Gov. Bill Richardson  
New Mexico  
Gov. George Pataki  
New York  
Gov. Mike Easley  
North Carolina  
Gov. John Hoeven  
North Dakota  
Gov. Bob Taft  
Ohio  
Gov. Brad Henry  
Oklahoma  
Gov. Ted Kulongoski  
Oregon  
Gov. Edward Rendell  
Pennsylvania  
Gov. Donald Carcieri  
Rhode Island  
Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.  
Utah  
Gov. James Douglas  
Vermont  
Gov. Tim Kaine  
Virginia  
Gov. Chris Gregoire  
Washington  
Gov. Joe Manchin III  
West Virginia  
Gov. Jim Doyle  
Wisconsin  
Gov. Dave Freudenthal  
Wyoming

February 6, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives

Dear Senator Frist, Senator Reid, Speaker Hastert, and Representative Pelosi,

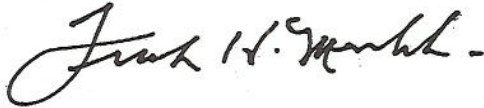
For several months this winter, states have taken steps to help assure that our most vulnerable residents are not overwhelmed by the sharp rise in home heating costs. This has often meant significant state contributions to emergency relief funds or supplementing existing state-federal programs. Despite these actions by the states and the record cost of energy nationwide, federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) reflects a net *decrease* from the previous fiscal year's total. We urge Congress to join the states in meeting the well-documented need for additional home heating assistance by passing \$2 billion in immediate additional LIHEAP assistance.

Governors supported the progress that was made when LIHEAP was authorized at \$5.1 billion in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but were disappointed when Congress appropriated only \$2.16 billion for FY 2006. While we appreciate the President's recent release of an additional \$100 million of emergency LIHEAP funds and Congress' proposal to add \$1 billion for FY 2007, urgent action is needed to address the Energy Information Administration (EIA)'s prediction of a 30 to 70 percent rise in consumer energy costs this winter.

Covering dramatic increases in natural gas and heating oil prices presents a potential hardship for our citizens. LIHEAP applications are projected to increase by as much as 25% in some states. As noted above, many states, energy industry leaders, and private citizens have done their part by increasing investments in the program. We are asking you to join us by sending legislation to the President that provides enough funding to meet our low-income citizens' energy needs for 2006. If Congress does not increase LIHEAP funding in the next few weeks, state programs across the country could run dry, and the number of households unable to meet their basic heating needs could skyrocket.

Our states are in the process of documenting the potential shortfalls in LIHEAP funding and the supplemental funding states have already provided. We look forward to sharing that information with you shortly. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued commitment to assisting our neediest families. We hope that you will take this opportunity to actively support the LIHEAP program.

Sincerely,



Governor Frank H. Murkowski  
Alaska



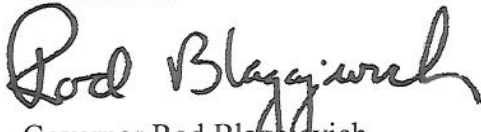
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Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
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Indiana



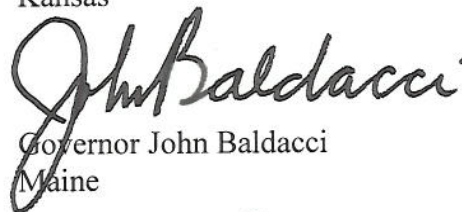
Governor Thomas J. Vilsack  
Iowa



Governor Kathleen Sebelius  
Kansas



Governor Kathleen B. Blanco  
Louisiana



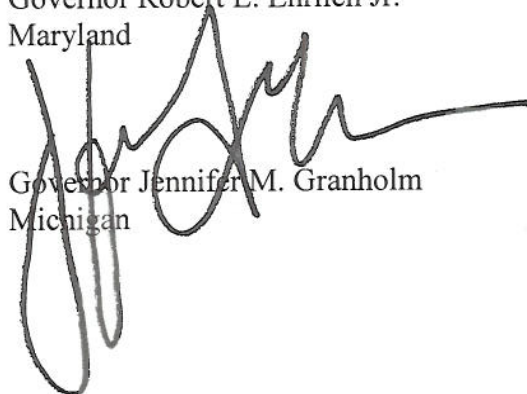
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Maine



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.  
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Governor Mitt Romney  
Massachusetts



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
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Governor Tim Pawlenty  
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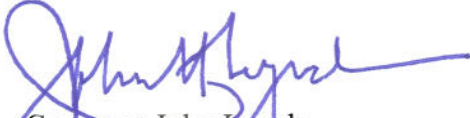




Governor Brian Schweitzer  
Montana



Governor Dave Heineman  
Nebraska



Governor John Lynch  
New Hampshire



Governor Jon S. Corzine  
New Jersey



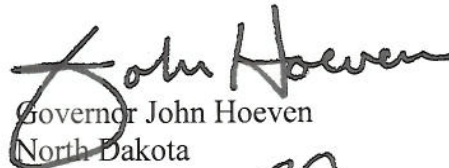
Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico



Governor George E. Pataki  
New York



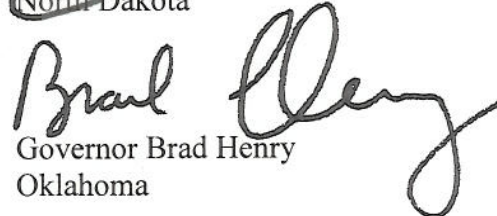
Governor Michael F. Easley  
North Carolina



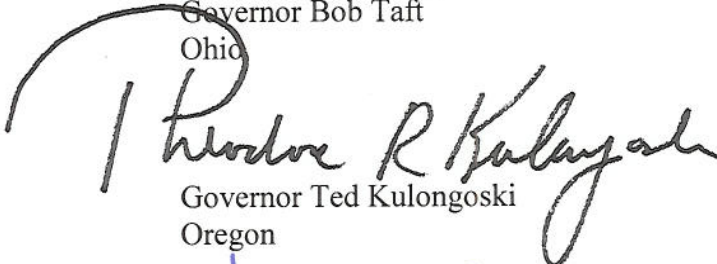
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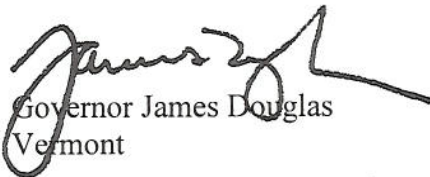
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